KR-3/KR-4 Dadar-Ratnagiri Passenger is available between Dadar-Deeva-Panvel. In addition, 3 and 4 pairs of passenger trains are also available on Diva-Vasai Road and Deeva-Panvel sections respectively. These services are considered adequate for the present level of traffic offering on these sections.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal to introduce trains on Mumbai/Vasai Road-Deeva-Panvel sections due to operational and resource constraints.

Rationalisation of freight rates

2378. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has earned Rs. 2,362/- crores during 2005-06 through freight ferrying and introduced a slew of incentive schemes to further boost revenue earnings;

(b) whether freight incentive scheme introduced is in line with the announcements made in Railway Budget;

(c) if so, whether these schemes would be beneficial to custmers transporting raw-material and finished products through Railways;

(d) whether his Ministry is rationalising freight rates and offer specific concessions to bulk-users; and

(e) to what extent it would help Railways' earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Railway has earned Rs. 36286.97 crore (Provisional) during 2005-06 from freight business. Railway had introduced a slew of incentive schemes to further boost revenue earnings.

(b) and (c) Many incentive schemes have been announced in the Railway Budget 2006-07 to increase the freight earnings. Besides the schemes announced, other incentive schemes have also been launched after 1st April, 06. These schemes will be beneficial to customers transporting raw-material and finished products through railways.

(d) Rationalisation of freight rates is continuing for the last few years and is a continous process. Freight discount has been offered to bulk-users under various schemes.

(e) The freight earnings upto the first quarter of the financial year *i.e.* upto June, 2006 (approximate) have increased by 14.08% as compared to the corresponding period of the previous financial year (approximate).

Feasibility report on new link from Nagapattinam to Tithruthuraipundi

2379. SHRIMIATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sourthern Railway had sent a feasibility report on the new links from Nagapattinum to Tithruthuraipundi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is considering to extend the said new railway line up to Velankanni; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The work of connectivity to Velankanni from Nagapattinam has already been taken up as part of Thanjavur-Tiruvarur-Nagore gauge conversion project.

Doubling of Chengalpattu-Villupuram rail line

2380. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways had cleared doubling of the Chengalputtu-Villupuram section;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the abvoe said proposal is now with the Planning Commission;

(c) if so, the present status of the said proposal;

(d) whether the Railways is also considering to double the Chengalpattu-Tuticorin section in view of increasing passenger traffic; and